newspaper report on this issue in Rashtriya Sahara on 14.6.2002 which was investigated by the Zonal Railway and no irregularity was substantiated.

Encroachment of Railway Lands

1884. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Railway Operations derailed" appearing in the Hindu dated 13th June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems of large scale encroachment of Railway lands and tracks highlighted in the news-item which have rendered Railway's expansion programme completely infructuous?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Railways have, from time to time, taken steps to remove the encroachers. Eviction process has been initiated. The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi have adopted a policy of rehabilitation of such encroachers at the Government cost. For the NCT of Delhi, this position was accepted by Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. At their instance, Railways have also accepted the policy of the Government of NCT Delhi for that encorached land which is needed immediately for execution of sanctioned projects, which implies sharing some cost of rehabilitation of encorachers. Thus, now the removal of encorachers (which requires presence of Magistrate, Police, etc.), can be done a by a slow process prioritising for land required for execution of projects.

Super Fast Train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari

1885. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has made a request for introduction of a super-fast train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari *via* Chennai;